

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 HEW-04 OES-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: NGO CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS IN
THE AMERICAS

REF: (1) GASTON-SHAPIRO/HEWITT TELCON 9/23 (2) STATE
228285

1. SUMMARY: SUBJECT CONFERENCE CONCLUDED 23
SEPTEMBER WITH A.M. PLENARY AMID RESOUNDING DRUMS AND
RESOLUTIONS. U.S. GUEST DELEGATION DID NOT PARTICIPATE
IN FINAL DAY OF SESSION HAVING BEEN REFUSED RIGHT OF REPLY
BY NGO CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN ROMESH CHANDRA (INDIA). ALTHOUGH
STEERING COMMITTEE LATER REVERSED CHANDRA'S DECISION,
CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT FAILED TO NOTIFY U.S. MISSION
OF CHANGE.

2. IN PRESS RELEASE NGO'S DENIED REFUSING U.S. RIGHT
TO SPEAK AT PLENARY AND LEADERS ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE
AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL TO ISSUE A STATEMENT TO THAT
EFFECT. END SUMMARY.

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3. THE CONFERENCE OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIGENOUS
POPULATIONS IN THE AMERICAS ENDED WITH RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR SUB-COMMITTEE ON RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION,
APARTHEID, AND DECOLONIZATION "TO PROMOTE THE DECISIONS OF THE
CONFERENCE AND RECEIVE AND CIRCULATE INFORMATION FROM NGO'S
ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS" AND PROPOSALS MADE

DURING THE NGO SESSION.

4. RESOLUTION WAS THE PRODUCT OF WORK IN THREE CONFERENCE COMMISSIONS: LEGAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL AND CULTURAL. THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AND CULTURAL MEETINGS WERE USED AS PLATFORMS BY THE MORE RADICAL MEMBERS OF THE U.S. INDIAN DELEGATIONS TO CONDEMN THE UNITED STATES. GENOCIDE AND STERILIZATION WERE PERVASIVE ISSUES IN BOTH GROUPS. ACCORDING TO RUSSELL MEANS THE UNITED STATES IN COLLUSION WITH MULTILATERAL CORPORATIONS IS POLLUTING WATER AND/OR LOWERING WATER TABLES WHICH WILL LEAD EVENTUALLY TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE INDIAN PEOPLES (THIS IS HIS BROAD DEFINITION OF GENOCIDE).

5. THE LEGAL COMMISSION PROVED THE MOST PRODUCTIVE OF THE THREE GROUPS AND SOME RECOMMENDATIONS APPEAR WORKABLE FOR CREATING CHANGE WHICH INDIANS DESIRE. (ALL DOCUMENTS ARE BEING FORWARDED VIA POUCH TO DERIAN (D/HA) AND HEWITT (IO).)

6. ON SEPTEMBER 22 U.S. GUEST DELEGATE ASKED TO MAKE A STATEMENT DURING FINAL PLENARY OF NGO SESSION. CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING, EDITH BALLANTYNE (WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM) GRANTED REQUEST WHICH ROMESH CHANDRA (WORLD PEACE COUNCIL) RESCINDED WITH THE EXPLANATION THAT IF ONE NATION SPOKE, OTHERS WOULD WANT TO SPEAK AND SUCH A DEBATE WOULD INVOLVE THE RIGHT TO REPLY. FOLLOWING CHANDRA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION, AMBASSADOR TOOK DECISION TO TERMINATE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE, AND SENT LETTER OF PROTEST TO CHANDRA.

7. IN A NIGHT SESSION THE NGO STEERING COMMITTEE OVERTURNED CHANDRA'S DECISION AND AGREED THAT DURING FINAL PLENARY U.S. GUEST DELEGATE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RESPOND TO CHARGES MADE AGAINST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DURING THE SESSION. NEITHER THE MISSION NOR THE U.S. DELEGATES WERE INFORMED OF THIS DECISION AND LEARNED THAT AUTHORIZATION HAD BEEN GRANTED ONLY AFTER THE CHAIRPERSON CALLED UPON THE U.S. DELEGATE TO SPEAK DURING THE PLENARY LATE THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

8. MISSION RELEASED TO PRESS STATEMENT THAT IT WOULD HAVE MADE AT THE PLENARY TOGETHER WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO CHANDRA. NGO'S DENIED THAT U.S. HAD BEEN REFUSED RIGHT TO SPEAK, POINTING OUT THAT THE U.S. DELEGATE WAS ABSENT WHEN CALLED UPON DURING THE MEETING.

9. ON SEPTEMBER 26 NIALL MACDERMOT (ICJ) AND EDITH BALLANTYNE MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND PRESENTED HIM WITH A LETTER REQUESTING THAT HE MAKE A STATEMENT INDICATING THE U.S. WAS GRANTED RIGHT TO SPEAK.

10. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT THE LETTER WAS UNACCEPTABLE AND DURING THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION EXPRESSED HIS DISPLEASURE THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN DESIGNED TO ATTACK THE UNITED STATES AND TO GATHER COMPLAINTS FROM THE INDIANS WHICH COULD BE USED AGAINST US AT BELGRADE. HE POINTED OUT THAT NO EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE INDIAN DELEGATES WHERE DIALOGUE MIGHT HAVE SET THE STAGE FOR RESOLVING PROBLEMS. THE AMBASSADOR QUESTIONED WHY NEITHER PAST NOR FUTURE NGO CONFERENCES DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE.

11. IN RESPONSE TO THESE COMMENTS MACDERMOT SAID THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE WAS WILLING TO HOLD A CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE USSR BUT INFORMATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE. HE SAID THAT IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD COME OUT LOOKING BETTER THAN THE AMERICANS IN THEIR TREATMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION. BALLANTYNE DEFENDED HER POSITION CONTENDING THAT CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HAD BEEN PLANNED PRIOR TO THE HELSINKI ACCORDS. THE AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED MEETING BY NOTING THAT HE HAD A LONG PERSONAL ASSOCIATION WITH NGOS AND ADMIRERED THEIR PURPOSES BUT WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THIS CONFERENCE WAS SO UNBALANCED AND PROPAGANDISTIC RATHER THAN SUBSTANTIVELY ORIENTED. VANDEN HEUVEL

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